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STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

30th June 1951.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained satisfactory, and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease apart from the 8 cases of poliomyelitis in respect of which a special report was presented to you during the year.

While writing this present report I have before me the report of your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1900. It is interesting to note that the estimated population at that time was 5,500 as compared with your present estimated population of 7,010, and that the birth rate of 50 years ago was double that of the present time, but that the death rate showed little difference.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Noel J. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value - £56,981
Production of a penny rate - £219.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7010

LIVE BIRTHS.	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures for (a) North Dorset	(b) England & Wales.
Total	36	39	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.6	15.6	15.8
Legitimate	34	38			
Illegitimate	2	1			
STILLBIRTHS					
Total	1	1	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.2	0.2	0.3
DEATHS					
Total	40	47	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 12.4	13.4	11.6
Deaths in infants under one year.	1	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 13.3	24.2	29.8

Deaths from Tuberculosis - 6

Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

As reported last year, under the National Health Service Act 1946, the personal health services, the Ambulance Service, and the Laboratory Services, are provided by the Ministry of Health or County Council.

I do not think that it is necessary to draw your attention to any matters concerned with these services, with the exception that I should like to record that although the County Council's Domestic Help Service came into operation on the 1st April, it has not been found possible to get this service operating in your district during the year.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E. Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R. San.I.	Chief Sanitary Inspector.
H. Shepherd, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I.	Sanitary Inspector for meat inspection.

Clerical staff - 3 clerks (part-time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

	1948.	1949.	1950.
Rainfall -	33.98 ins.	26.98 ins.	35.74 ins.

The only new work carried out during the year was the extension of the water mains to two new housing estates.

1889 houses in the Urban District are provided with a supply direct into the houses, 80 houses obtain their water supply by means of standpipes.

8 houses and a displaced persons camp (approximately 750 inhabitants) in the area of the Sherborne Rural District, also have a domestic water supply from your Council.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity throughout the year. The quality from each source has remained satisfactory.

95 bacteriological and 6 chemical examinations were carried out on the supplies during the year. In addition 353 informal free chlorine tests were made. The water is subjected to filtration and chlorination before use. On chemical examination the supplies were found to have a fluorine content of from 0.13 to 0.24 parts per million. A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. A new borehole 200 feet deep and 10" diameter was sunk by the Sherborne Laundry during the year. Constant supervision of these supplies is maintained in connection with which 30 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No major works were carried out during the year. A new sewer in connection with 52 houses erected on a new housing site was laid.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

(b) Salvage. During the year salvage was collected only as part of normal refuse collection, except kitchen waste which continued as a special collection until the 15th April.

Amounts collected:-

	tons.	cwts.	qrs.
Paper	4.	18.	0.
Pig Food	4.	8.	0.
Rags		19.	0.
Metals	5.	8.	0.
Total -	15.	13.	0.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Two samples of the effluent from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works were submitted for examination and proved to be satisfactory.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out.....10
No. of defects found.....Nil
No. of notices served.....Nil
No. of notices complied with.....1

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority;	44	15	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	6	1
(iii) other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	6	Nil
Total -	66	27	1

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences - insufficient	1	1

No. of outworkers = 42.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Observations and informal action was taken in connection with two cases of smoke nuisance, which were, as a result, remedied.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district, available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority, when the water is subject to chlorination.

10. CAMPING SITES.

Licences were granted in connection with four caravan sites during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

12. RATS AND MICE.

The apparent marked decrease locally in the rat population, noted in my report for last year, still continues. The scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. It is proposed to continue to use this Joint Committee in connection with giving effect to the relevant sections of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

13. RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 - 1922.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

14. SCHOOLS.

Subject to agreement being reached as to charges, the Urban District Council has undertaken to carry out drain tests of school premises in the district under the control of the Dorset County Council.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention, and living in insanitary conditions.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) (a) No. of houses inspected during the year 31
(b) No. of inspections made 38

(2) (1) No. of informal notices served 5
(2) No. of informal notices complied with 5
(3) No. of statutory notices served Nil
(4) No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

(3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 Nil
(2) Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -
(a) Demolition Orders made Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -
(i) Closure Nil
(ii) re-conditioning Nil

(4) Overcrowding.

(a) No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority Nil
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated 7
(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Total number of working class houses in the district 1231

Requisitioned premises etc.

9 houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. 11 houses, on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Traditional Type.
(a) During 1950	Nil	14
(b) Post-War	40	93 (including 22 special dwellings for aged persons)

Total number of families re-housed during 1950 18

By private enterprise 3 new houses were built, and by conversion 3 additional units of accommodation were provided.

Housing Act 1949.

One application for an Improvement Grant under this Act was received during the year, but in so far as it did not comply with the conditions laid down by the Ministry, it was refused.

During the year 11 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 11 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Comments.

It will be seen from the above-mentioned figures that the only action taken by the Council during the year in connection with housing has been the provision of 14 new dwellings.

Action is called for in connection with many dwellings in the district which are sub-standard. It is true that with so limited a 'licensing ceiling' it would not be possible to effect all the improvements which are called for in such property, and that until many more new houses are available, those persons at present living in accommodation fit only for closure and demolition, could not be provided with alternative accommodation. Nevertheless, however, I do feel that the Council should consider what their policy is to be, not only in connection with the provision of new houses, but with regard to what can now only be described as slum property within the district.

Rent Charges.

There appears to be an increasing tendency of applicants for Council houses having to refuse a house when offered to them on account of the higher rents which are now being charged, and an increase in the number of occupants living in the newer Council houses who seek transfer to older and lower rented houses.

If this tendency continues, the whole principal of housing by local authorities will be negatived, for those with large families living in sub-standard houses will be the first to have to refuse a Council house when offered to them, and it is for such families that local authorities were first empowered to provide houses.

It is not difficult to appreciate that a large family who are possibly somewhat unthrifty and who are living under very unsatisfactory conditions cannot accept the offer of a highly rented Council house. Less obvious is the problem of the thrifty black-coated (or semi black-coated) worker in the lower income group who is anxious to maintain as decent a standard as possible for his wife and family, but who finds a high rent takes an undue proportion from his pay packet. If such an applicant accepts a highly rented house, some deprivations must be endured. It is the wife and mother who first goes hungry.

Bearing in mind that the new houses now provided are to last for at least 60 years, I do not feel that the standard of new houses, as laid down by the Ministry of Health, can reasonably be reduced to an appreciable extent.

It is argued by some that the persons in the higher income groups should not be allowed to occupy subsidized houses, at the same time we see that there are those in the lowest income groups who are often unable to afford to live in these houses.

It would appear that consideration of a differential rent scheme might prove necessary to overcome this anomoly.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Byelaws. Byelaws in respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air, were adopted by the Council during the year.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

(a) No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 3

(b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 1

(c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 ____ 5

(d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 ____ 6

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested / Accredited	7
Pasteurised	176
Ungraded	25

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	22
No. of such premises inspected during the year	22
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	24
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	
(a) Ice-Cream 22	
(b) Sausages & prepared meats 2	
No. of such premises inspected during the year	22
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	57

Results:-	Grade 1	-	41
	" 2	-	11
	" 3	-	2
	" 4	-	3

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. A special report was submitted to you during the year with regard to the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in your district. The report indicated that they were inadequate to provide for proper inspection of slaughtered carcases. Extensive alterations are now in hand to improve the conditions at one of the slaughterhouses, and the other one is to be closed. It is anticipated that when these alterations and improvements have been made, facilities will be adequate for the proper inspection of slaughtered carcases.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2098	883	3033	84
Number inspected	2098	883	3033	84
All diseases except tuberculosis.				
Whole carcases condemned	8	4	2	3
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	402	36	197	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	19.11	3.73	6.5	16.7
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcase condemned	35.4	Nil	Nil	2
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	487	Nil	Nil	9
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	23.20	Nil	Nil	13.10
Note:- The above figures include following casualties	112	43	60	82

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned:-

7½ lbs. bacon (bruised and decomposed)
16 tins meat (blown or pierced)
21 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat (blown or pierced)

Other foods condemned:-

407 tins assorted foodstuffs.
475 lbs. assorted foodstuffs.
1 pot meat paste
35 dozen eggs.
20 jars sandwich spread.
24 bottles mint sauce.
10 boxes smoked fillet.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	9
No. of disinfections carried out	6

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	72
Total No. of Informal notices served	7
Total No. of Informal notices complied with	7
Total No. of Statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of Statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence:-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Acute & Lobar Pneumonia	1	-
Scarlet fever	4	-
Whooping cough	48	-
Poliomyelitis	8	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-

A special report was submitted to you at the end of the year in connection with the cases of poliomyelitis occurring during the year, and I do not feel that any further comment is necessary. It will be noted that 48 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 2 during the preceding year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases Notified.		Deaths	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
5	1	3	1

5 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year compared with 10 cases notified during the preceding year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.